



ASSEMBLYMEMBER

NICOLE PARRA

Representing the 30th Assembly District

**Parra Notes**

September 30, 2005

Hello Friends:

I hope you all had a wonderful week. Last Friday, my morning began with a visit to **Mr. DesLaurier's** 11th grade AP Civics Class at **North High School** in **Bakersfield**. I shared with them my experiences as a youth growing up in **Bakersfield** and encouraged them to follow their dreams. I always enjoy making these visits because I walk away having learned more from them. That afternoon I had lunch with several pastors from **East Bakersfield**. The Pastors included **Oscar Anthony, Josephate Jordon, and Freddie Thomas**. They shared with me their current community projects including one they have started to help families relocating to **Bakersfield** because of **Hurricane Katrina**. Later that day, I joined Army Captain **David Ebel**, Kern County Coordinator for the **Salvation Army**. He updated me on the status of the families relocating to **Bakersfield** as a result of **Hurricane Katrina**. During the meeting he brought up a very good point. We must remember that these families moving to Bakersfield are not refugees, but our guests and we should treat them as such.

On Saturday, I held an **Identity Theft Forum** in **Kingsburg** to educate the public on protecting themselves from identity theft. Taking part in the forum were **Kingsburg** Chief of Police **Jeff Dunn**, Lt. **Victor Wisemer** **Fresno County Sheriff's** Department, and **Fresno County** Chief Deputy District Attorney **John Savrnock**. They provided very useful information, but the one thing they stressed the most was the importance of shredding documents with your personal information. Also present at the forum was my good friend **Don Johnson** and **Chief Dunn's** wife **Heather** along with their two beautiful children. Longtime **Kingsburg** resident **June Hess** was also present. For those of you who don't know **June**, she is the owner of **Svensk Butik** in **Downtown Kingsburg**. June is also known around town for keeping the **Swedish** tradition alive. Later that day, I attended the **Corcoran Annual Cotton Festival Parade** in **downtown Corcoran**. This is the third year in a row that I make it out to the Cotton Festival. As always, I had a great time. In the evening I attended the **2005 Hispanic Heritage Awards Banquet** in **Visalia**. This is the second year this banquet took place and it was held to recognize the accomplishments of Latinos in government, small business, and other areas.

LEGISLATION

I am excited to report that last week **Governor Schwarzenegger** signed **Assembly Bill (AB)706** which I introduced this year. This bill authorizes the Cal State University (CSU) to exclude

whistleblower cases from public disclosure.

Under the California Whistleblower Protection Act, the identity of any Cal State University employee filing a complaint is to be protected unless the Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6251) is invoked. In such cases the identity of the whistleblower is made public. The Public Records Act thus works against those filing a complaint by preventing CSU from shielding their identity or keeping investigative audits confidential.

AB 706 is sponsored by the California State University Board of Trustees. It will go into effect on January 1, 2006.

EVENTS

During our legislative break, I will be attending several meetings and events throughout the district. Below you will find just a few of the public events that I am scheduled to attend in October.

October (Tentative)

- **Tulare Kings Law Enforcement Dinner** – October 8th from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Visalia.
- **Kaiser Team-Up for Wellness Conference** - October 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Williams Theatre in Fresno.
- **Rotary Club of Downtown Bakersfield** – October 13th from 11:45 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Bakersfield.
- **Kingsburg Jr. Women's Club** – October 13th from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Kingsburg.
- **Lamont Lions Club Meeting** – October 19th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Lamont.
- **Domestic Violence Stakeholders Meeting** – October 19th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Bakersfield.
- **Kern County Veteran's Services Annual Stand Down** - October 19th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Bakersfield.
- **Keep Kids Alive Drive 25 Kings County Kick-Off** – October 20th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Hanford.

WOMEN'S ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

On **October 20th**, I will be getting together with members of my Women's Advisory Group at the Hanford Civic Building (training room) in **Hanford** from **Noon to 1:30 p.m.** The Hanford Civic Building is located at 321 N. Douty St. Hanford, CA 93230. For more information please contact Teresa Plascencia at (559) 585-7170 or at Teresa.Plascencia@asm.ca.gov.

IDENTITY THEFT COMMUNITY FORUM

On **October 21st**, I will host an Identity Theft Forum at the **Richard Prado Senior Center** in **Bakersfield** from **noon to 1:00 p.m.** I encourage all of you to attend as we will be discussing important information you need to know about protecting yourself from identity theft. The Richard

Prado Senior Center is located at 2101 Ridge Rd., Bakersfield, CA 93301. For more information please contact Manuel Barrera at (661) 334-3745 or Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov.

GUN SAFETY SEMINAR

On **October 22nd**, I will host a **Gun Safety Seminar** at **Burris Park** in **Kingsburg** from **2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** We will be discussing important safety tips and new gun laws we should all be familiar with. Free trigger locks will be given out to those who attend. Burris Park is located at 6500 Clinton Ave, Kingsburg, CA 93631. For more information please contact Frank Stiger at (559) 585-7170 or at Frank.Stiger@asm.ca.gov.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY THEFT

Each year thousands of people become victims of identity theft and don't even know it. Identity theft takes place when someone takes some piece of your personal information and uses it without your knowledge or consent. Below are just a few of the tips you can follow to help lower your risk of being victimized.

1. **Protect your Social Security Number** – Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet.
2. **Shred important documents instead of throwing them away** – Shred documents with your personal information.
3. **Check your credit reports for free** – Be sure to monitor your credit history. You receive one free credit report per year from each of the three credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union. Order your free credit reports by phone, toll-free, at 877-322-8228 or online at www.annualcreditreport.com/cra/index.jsp.
4. **Stop pre-approved credit offers** - Pre-approved credit card offers make a tempting target for identity thieves who steal your mail. Have your name removed from credit bureau marketing lists by calling 888-5OPTOUT (888-567-8688).

'ICE' IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES

Give emergency personnel another tool in providing you with the necessary medical services by using **'ICE'**. It only takes a minute. All you have to do is enter the acronym **'ICE'** with a name and phone number into your cell phone's address book of the individuals you would like to be contacted in case of an emergency.

INTERNS WANTED

I am accepting applications for the fall internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, have a strong interest in public policy, and political issues facing the Central Valley. Applications can be found by going to:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Matt Rogers** at **(559) 585-7170** or by e-mail at Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov.

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Manuel Barrera** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov.

For Sacramento office internships contact **Michael Tamariz** at **(916) 319-2030** or by e-mail at Michael.Tamariz@asm.ca.gov .

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